

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Emmanuelle GUILLOT et al.

Serial No.: 09/529,217

Filed: June 5, 2000

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: J. Souaya

Atty. Dkt. 21029/0196



For: MEANS FOR QUALITATIVE AND  
QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF  
MICROBIAL POPULATIONS  
POTENTIALLY PRESENT IN A  
SAMPLE

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**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated May 22, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 5-7 and 14 to read as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of qualitative and quantitative analysis of microbial population(s) comprising:

contacting microorganisms present in a sample with at least one specific probe to form a probe-target complex, wherein the specific probe recognizes a RNA target sequence under conditions favorable to *in situ* hybridization in whole cells, extracting the hybridized specific probes from their target by adding a denaturing agent to denature the probe-target complex, and detecting the extracted probes and measuring the amount thereof or their respective amounts.